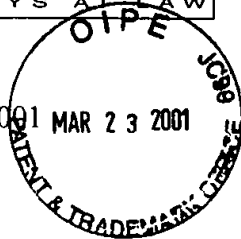




March 23, 2001



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**MICHAEL J. BELL**  
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Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/781,150*  
*Filed: February 13, 2001*  
*For: System for Withdrawing and Dewatering Slag*  
*from Gasification Equipment (as amended)*  
*Inventors: Winter, et al.*  
*Attorney Docket No. 06950.0167.DVUS01*

Sir:

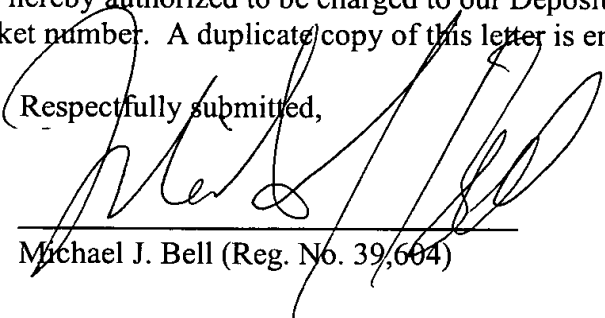
The following documents are forwarded for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Second Preliminary Amendment;
2. Check for \$486.00 (excess claims fee); and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing the above-docket number. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,664)

Enclosures